

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3698

To establish a Global Service Fellowship Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota (for herself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SUTTON, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a Global Service Fellowship Program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Global Service Fellow-
5 ship Program Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In confronting terrorism the United States
2 must reach out to other regions of the world to
3 maintain, as well as establish, strong relationships
4 as recommended by the Final Report of the National
5 Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United
6 States (commonly referred to as the “9/11 Commis-
7 sion Report”), which stated that “The United States
8 should rebuild the scholarship, exchange, and library
9 programs that reach out to young people and offer
10 them knowledge and hope. Where such assistance is
11 provided, it should be identified as coming from the
12 citizens of the United States.”.

13 (2) International volunteering opportunities are
14 effective means of addressing critical human needs,
15 building bridges across cultures, and promoting mu-
16 tual understanding.

17 (3) Current volunteer programs, such as the
18 Peace Corps, remain an important component of
19 Federal efforts to promote volunteer service, cross-
20 cultural understanding, and the values of the United
21 States.

22 (4) The duration of volunteer service opportuni-
23 ties and financial limitations are common barriers to
24 qualified individuals of all backgrounds and ages in-
25 terested in volunteering overseas, which would be

1 significantly reduced by a global service fellowship
2 program.

3 (5) A global service fellowship program would
4 provide funding and programmatic flexibility for vol-
5 unteers of all backgrounds and ages.

6 (6) Eligible organizations willing to participate
7 in the fellowship program as sponsoring organiza-
8 tions would be in a better position to recruit volun-
9 teers for their programs overseas.

10 **SEC. 3. GLOBAL SERVICE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Secretary
12 of State, in consultation with representatives of the Volun-
13 teers for Prosperity program administered by the United
14 States Agency for International Development, shall estab-
15 lish and administer a grant program to be known as the
16 “Global Service Fellowship Program” (in this section re-
17 ferred to as the “Program”) to fund fellowships to pro-
18 mote international volunteering opportunities as a means
19 of addressing critical human needs and promoting mutual
20 understanding by building bridges across cultures, ad-
21 dressing critical human needs, and promoting mutual un-
22 derstanding.

23 (b) FELLOWSHIPS.—Grants awarded under the Pro-
24 gram shall be used to fund fellowships as follows:

1 (1) Fellowships between 7 days and 14 days in
2 duration may be funded at levels of up to \$1,000.

3 (2) Fellowships between 15 days and 90 days in
4 duration may be funded at levels of up to \$2,500.

5 (3) Fellowships between 91 days and 180 days
6 may be funded at levels of up to \$5,000.

7 (4) Fellowships between 181 days and one year
8 may be funded at levels of up to \$7,500.

9 (c) COORDINATION WITH SPONSORING ORGANIZA-
10 TIONS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Fellowships funded under
12 the Program shall be coordinated and supervised by
13 participating volunteer sponsoring organizations.
14 The sponsoring organizations shall be registered
15 with the Secretary of State and shall collaborate
16 with host country organizations in developing pro-
17 grams that appropriately address local needs for the
18 transfer of volunteer skills, capacity building, and
19 cross-cultural service organizations.

20 (2) PRIORITIZATION OF PROJECTS.—Spon-
21 soring organizations shall recommend and prioritize
22 fellowship projects based on one or more of the fol-
23 lowing objectives:

1 (A) Eradication of extreme poverty in con-
2 junction with the goals of the United Nations
3 Millennium Development Goals.

4 (B) Achievement of universal primary edu-
5 cation.

6 (C) Promotion of gender equality and the
7 empowerment of women and families.

8 (D) Reducing child mortality and improv-
9 ing maternal health.

10 (E) Providing medical and dental health
11 care and prevention.

12 (F) Providing assistance for the elderly,
13 orphans, people with disabilities, and refugees.

14 (G) Promoting environmental sustain-
15 ability.

16 (H) Providing economic and social oppor-
17 tunities for youth in countries with growing co-
18 horts of young people.

19 (I) Promoting youth service by building re-
20 lated volunteer-sector capacity in host countries.

21 (J) Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and
22 other infectious diseases.

23 (K) Helping to build or provide decent
24 housing.

1 (L) Providing disaster and humanitarian
2 response, preparedness, and reconstruction.

3 (M) Promoting cross-cultural exchange,
4 conflict resolution, and peace.

5 (N) Developing global partnerships for de-
6 velopment in the areas of economic growth,
7 microenterprise, asset development, and agricul-
8 tural and rural development.

9 (O) Advancing access to information tech-
10 nology and strengthening civil society.

11 (P) Providing services to orphans and vul-
12 nerable children.

13 (Q) Carrying out additional activities in
14 impact areas designated by the Secretary of
15 State in accordance with the purposes of this
16 Act.

17 (d) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

18 (1) SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.—Applicants
19 shall submit applications for fellowships under the
20 Program to sponsoring organizations.

21 (2) REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary
22 of State, or an agent appointed by the Secretary,
23 shall determine the eligibility of candidates and, in
24 consultation with sponsoring organizations, award
25 and administer fellowships under the Program.

1 (3) CRITERIA.—The Secretary of State shall
2 develop and publish criteria for fellowships in ac-
3 cordance with the following guidelines:

4 (A) SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS.—Appli-
5 cants for Global Service Fellowships shall be
6 registered with sponsoring organizations such
7 as—

8 (i) nongovernmental organizations
9 based in the United States that sponsor
10 international volunteer service;

11 (ii) faith-based organizations engaged
12 in the delivery of nonsectarian services;

13 (iii) universities and colleges operating
14 international service learning and volunteer
15 service programs; and

16 (iv) nongovernmental organizations
17 based in the United States that collaborate
18 with local or national host government
19 agencies or nongovernmental organizations
20 in promoting volunteer capacity and na-
21 tional and community service in impact
22 areas designated by the Secretary of State
23 under subsection (c)(2)(Q).

1 (B) APPLICANTS.—Applicants shall be
2 nominated and selected for Global Service Fel-
3 lowships as follows:

4 (i) Applicants shall have clearly de-
5 fined and structured goals for their pro-
6 posed fellowships, including a plan for as-
7 sessing and monitoring progress toward
8 such goals with sponsoring organizations
9 and a basis for follow-up and review by the
10 Secretary of State.

11 (ii) Priority should be given to—

12 (I) applicants from households
13 with an income that is less than 200
14 percent of the poverty level estab-
15 lished pursuant to current census fig-
16 ures;

17 (II) applicants who have dem-
18 onstrated prior community service ex-
19 perience;

20 (III) applicants with skills and
21 experience suited to the specific needs
22 of host countries; and

23 (IV) applicants who demonstrate
24 a clear plan to communicate their vol-

1 unteer experiences to their community
2 upon their return.

3 (e) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Individuals receiv-
4 ing Global Service Fellowships shall submit such reports,
5 including post-fellowship reports prepared for their home
6 communities, as the Secretary of State may require.

7 (f) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds awarded under this
9 section may be used to cover the following costs as-
10 sociated with the Program:

11 (A) Airfare, in-country travel, accommoda-
12 tions.

13 (B) Fees assessed by sponsoring organiza-
14 tions to defray international service program
15 costs and administrative costs.

16 (C) Subsistence allowance in accordance
17 with local market conditions.

18 (D) Program and local service project ma-
19 terials and tools to be expressly used for imple-
20 menting and executing individual fellowship
21 projects.

22 (E) Language and cultural training and
23 other costs associated with pre-service project
24 orientation.

1 (2) TUITION NOT COVERED.—Funds awarded
2 under this section may not be used for tuition costs.

3 (g) NONDISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENTS.—

4 (1) NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF APPLI-
5 CANTS.—The nomination and selection of applicants
6 under subsection (d) shall be without regard to race,
7 religion, color, national origin, sex, age, political af-
8 filiation, or disability.

9 (2) SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—A sponsoring organiza-
11 tion shall not discriminate against a Global
12 Service Fellowship Program participant or ap-
13 plicant, a beneficiary of any project in which a
14 Global Service Fellow participates, or, except as
15 provided in subparagraph (B), an employee of
16 the organization who is paid with Program
17 funds on the basis of race, religion, color, na-
18 tional origin, sex, age, political affiliation, or
19 disability.

20 (B) LIMITED EXCEPTION FOR EMPLOYEES
21 OF SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS EMPLOYED AT
22 TIME OF AWARDING OF FUNDS.—The prohibi-
23 tion under subparagraph (A) on discrimination
24 on the basis of religion shall not apply to the
25 employment, with assistance provided under

1 this Program, of any employee who was em-
2 ployed with the sponsoring organization on the
3 date that the funds were awarded.

4 **SEC. 4. EVALUATION AND REPORT.**

5 (a) **EVALUATION OF GLOBAL SERVICE FELLOWSHIP**
6 **PROGRAM.**—The Secretary of State shall establish and im-
7 plement an evaluation process for determining the effec-
8 tiveness of the Global Service Fellowship Program.

9 (b) **REPORT.**—Not later than March 31, 2010, the
10 Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report on
11 the Global Service Fellowships Program established under
12 section 3. The report shall describe—

13 (1) the identity and location of sponsoring orga-
14 nizations;

15 (2) for each impact issue areas identified by
16 sponsoring organizations, the number of volunteer
17 opportunities and the number of related Global Serv-
18 ice Fellowships that have been funded;

19 (3) the number of local volunteers recruited or
20 engaged with Global Service Fellows and their spon-
21 soring organizations or local host organizations;

22 (4) the locations of volunteer services;

23 (5) the effectiveness of such services based upon
24 findings of the evaluation process; and

1 (6) the total numbers of nominations for Global
2 Service Fellowships that have been received and ac-
3 cepted by the Secretary of State.

4 **SEC. 5. FELLOWSHIPS EXCLUDED FROM GROSS INCOME.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter B of chap-
6 ter 1 of subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
7 (relating to items specifically excluded from gross income)
8 is amended by inserting after section 139A the following
9 new section:

10 **“SEC. 139B. GLOBAL SERVICES FELLOWSHIPS.**

11 “Gross income does not include amounts received
12 under the Global Services Fellowship Program (within the
13 meaning of section 3 of the Global Service Fellowship Pro-
14 gram Act of 2007).”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
16 for part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle A
17 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relat-
18 ing to section 139A the following new item:

 “139B. Global Services Fellowships.”.

19 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
20 this section shall apply to taxable years ending after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act.

22 **SEC. 6. REGULATIONS.**

23 The Secretary of State shall prescribe regulations to
24 carry out the provisions of this Act.

1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appro-
3 priated to the Secretary of State \$50,000,000 for each of
4 fiscal years 2008 through 2010 for purposes of estab-
5 lishing and implementing the Global Service Fellowship
6 Program.

7 (b) OFFSET.—In order to provide an offset for
8 amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a), the In-
9 ternal Revenue Service shall deposit in the Treasury as
10 miscellaneous receipts all of the fees it receives for serv-
11 ices.

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